



Cheyenne-High Plains
Audubon Society

Novemberber 2025 "Flyer" Cheyenne - High Plains Audubon Society

Chartered by the National Audubon Society since 1974

Serving southeastern Wyoming Audubon members

Mission Statement: *The Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society promotes the conservation and appreciation of birds and wildlife through education, science, advocacy, and habitat stewardship in Southeast Wyoming.*

Vision Statement: *The Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society envisions a community where birds, wildlife, and their habitats are valued, protected, and enjoyed by the general public.*

Officers and Committee Chairs 2025-2026

Lorie Chesnut, President

Grant Frost, Vice president

Kirk Miller, Secretary

Chuck Seniawski, Treasurer

Kurt Warmbier, Conservation

Sarah Grace Delgado, Education

Historian, Open

Grant Frost, Field Trips, Bird Compiler

Mark Gorges, Newsletter, Habitat Hero

Vicki Herren, Important Bird Areas

Kirk Miller, Social Media,

Barb Gorges, Programs, Publicity

Lorie Chesnut, Website

Advocacy, Open

Wanda Manley, Past president

Pete Arnold, Audubon Rockies Board

The CHPAS Flyer is published online monthly. Submissions are welcome. The current issue is available online at www.CheyenneAudubon.org.

Contact Us at cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com

Join our Facebook Group, Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society Group

Please become a CHPAS member

Send \$12 plus any optional donation and your name, email address and mailing address to Cheyenne-High Plains Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2502, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

All chapter memberships expire Sept. 1. Any membership dues sent in after May 1 will pertain to the remainder of the current membership year and the following year.

Join the National Audubon Society

Send \$20 to Cheyenne - High Plains Audubon Society to join the National Audubon Society and you will receive NAS membership and NAS will return the \$20 to CHPAS.

"Wyoming Bird" chat group

Subscribe, post and/or read about interesting sightings on this Facebook public group site:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/403337446664409/>

Calendar

November 15, 8:00 a.m. – Field Trip: Laramie Plains Lakes

This is a free event open to the public. Everyone, no matter what your birding skills, is invited.

We will meet at the Lions Park parking lot between the Children's Village at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens and the picnic shelter. We will leave the park at 8:00 a.m. and drive to Laramie. From there we will drive southwest to head to a series of lakes.

At some of the lakes we will take short hikes over rough ground, birding as we go. We should see a variety of migrating waterfowl. Rarities often seem to make appearances on these lakes.

Bring lunch or snacks and water. Be sure to dress for variable weather. Bring binoculars if you have them. The more eyes we have, the more birds we will see. We should be back to Cheyenne no later than 4 p.m.

If you are interested in going, contact Grant Frost, 307-343-2024, so that he has a list of those expected, and he can let you know if the plans change for any reason like bad weather. Please let him know if you will need a ride from Cheyenne and back.

NOVEMBER 18, 6:30 p.m. – Program: Feather Trails-A Journey of Discovery Among Endangered Birds

Sophie Osborn will join us via Zoom (see the Zoom instructions below). This is a free event open to the public. Everyone is invited to the Willow Room, Laramie County Library, 2200 Pioneer Ave.

Birds are visible, vocal sentinels that alert us to environmental harms. In her book “Feather Trails - A Journey of Discovery Among Endangered Birds”, Sophie Osborn shares her experiences reintroducing endangered Peregrine Falcons, Hawaiian Crows, and California Condors to the wild. Sophie explores the threats that imperiled these birds, and reveals that what harmed them threatens us, too.

She will discuss what led to the endangerment of these three captivating species, recount the efforts of biologists to recover their populations, and read a few excerpts from her book that describe what it was like to work with these magnificent birds.

Sophie A. H. Osborn is an award-winning environmental writer and wildlife biologist whose work has included the study and conservation of more than a dozen bird species in the Americas. She contributed to reintroduction efforts for several endangered birds and served as the field manager for the California Condor Recovery Program in Arizona for four years.

Her first book, *Condors in Canyon Country*, won the 2007 National Outdoor Book Award for Nature and the Environment. Reviewers for the American Birding Association (ABA) chose her second book, *Feather Trails*, as their favorite bird book of 2024.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in the library, use the following information to join us on Zoom:

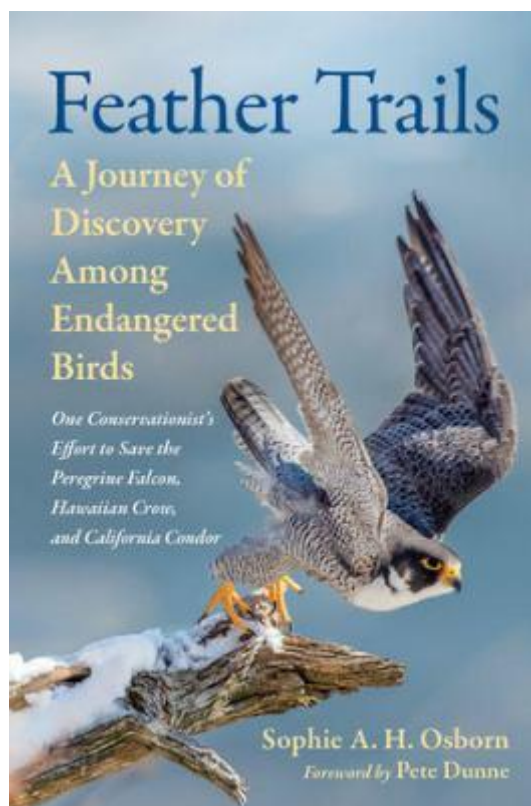
Time: Nov 18, 2025 06:30 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418680424?pwd=F3zVx8hIZdEwxsusJQNYVPvErF2qlf.1>

Meeting ID: 854 1868 0424

Passcode: 457483



November 25, 6:00 p.m. – Monthly Board Meeting

Contact us, cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com, if you would like to attend and participate in helping to plan chapter activities, or if you are interested in volunteering in some of our activities. This meeting will be held at the Laramie County Library in the Sage Room.

November 28, 8:00 a.m. – Country Club Bird Survey

Contact Chuck Seniawski to be on his email notice list: 307-638-6519 or chuckski@aol.com. The count will start in the Country Club's clubhouse's main parking lot. These outings are free and open to everyone, but please let Chuck know you are coming.

December 20 – Cheyenne Christmas Bird Count

Mark that on your calendar and look for details in next month's newsletter.

Chapter News

Chapter President's message

Forecasts for late October and early November suggest that winter is on its way. Our yard still has a few flowers in bloom but alas, they will be gone soon. But what a lovely fall we have had. Our house is gearing up for winter which includes cleaning and sanitizing our bird feeders and stocking up on seed for our feathered friends.

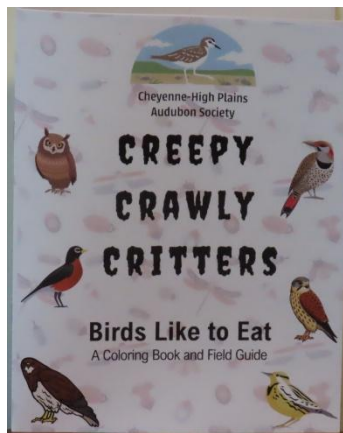
The Lions Park signs are up! Special thanks to the City of Cheyenne Parks Division and to everyone who donated to make these signs a reality. We are already getting many positive comments about them. Thanks also to the team who created them (Vicki Herren, Kirk Miller, Kim Parfitt, and Chris Hoffmeister). A home run!

We weren't expecting snow on the day of our special "Meet the Signs" field trip but it came down anyway, accompanied by a cold wind that created whitecaps on the lake. Our special event at Children's Village will be rescheduled – you don't want to miss the creative coloring books created by Education Chair Sarah Delgado! Watch for more information on our website and in the "Flyer" newsletter.

Our annual membership drive continues. Have you renewed your membership? Most of our events are free but your membership helps us do so much more in our community including educational programs, conservation activities, and grants for students and teachers. We appreciate each membership and all donations.

Check out our website (cheyenneaudubon.org) for more information about special projects and all of our on-going activities. Want to volunteer? Let us know! Just contact us at cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com and we will be in touch.

Thank you. Lorie Wayne Chesnut, CHPAS President



Other Chapter Board Activities:

Volunteer with the Chapter

CHPAS welcomes anyone who cares about birds and their environment to join us in volunteer activities; we have many ongoing projects. Just email us at cheyenneaudubon@gmail.com and let us know of your interest.

Education and Conservation

Chapter Grants

For information on our chapter education and conservation grants, see our chapter website at: www.cheyenneaudubon.org.

Habitat Hero



Cheyenne Habitat Hero

Our Habitat Hero Committee met at the end of October to finalize the plans for our 12th Habitat Hero Workshop to be held on Saturday, February 7th, 2026, at Laramie County Community College. We are keeping the cost at \$25 for the day, including lunch.

We plan to have our advertising out and the registration up and running by the end of November.

We recently had a short work morning in the Habitat Hero garden at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. After a little fall clean up, we planted new daffodil bulbs in bare spots in anticipation of additional spring color.

If you want information on how to get the Habitat Hero Garden designation for your yard, go to: <https://cheyennegardengossip.wordpress.com/2025/07/28/habitat-hero-tour-aug-16-2025/>.

Bird News

News from Audubon Rockies

Check out the Audubon Rockies News for up-to-date information on conservation issues in our part of the West. For the latest update go to: <https://www.audubon.org/rockies/news>

Daly Edmunds receives a Conservation Partner Award presented by the Intermountain West Joint Venture's Communications Team

Daly Edmunds' (Audubon Rockies' Director for Policy and Outreach) leadership, passion, and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in elevating communications that give voice to the sagebrush ecosystem and the people working to conserve it.

After the 2015 Greater Sage-grouse decision, she helped launch SageWest, a thriving network that connects communicators and conservationists across the West to share stories, ideas, and inspiration. Her dedication also helped bring the Storyteller's Circle workshop to life as an engaging, place-based event that strengthened connections among conservation communicators and deepened their storytelling skills.

Through her vision and commitment, Daly has built lasting partnerships and momentum for sagebrush conservation, making her a truly deserving recipient of this year's award.



October Big Day by the numbers

- More than 870,000 people went birding with eBird and/or Merlin!
- 113,510 checklists submitted by 48,830 eBirders
- 7,834 species observed globally from 196 countries
- 75,022 photos submitted to the Macaulay Library
- 2,781 recordings submitted to the Macaulay Library

Explore more October Big Day results at <https://ebird.org/octoberbigday>

Project Feeder Watch 2025/2026

November 1st was the start for Project Feeder Watch for this year. Join thousands of people in watching, learning and contributing observations about the natural world.

Go to <https://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/> for information on participating.

October 31 – Cheyenne Country Club Survey Results

7:58 AM - 10:38 AM

Protocol: Traveling

3.29 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: 28 degrees at start. Delayed walk by 35 minutes because of posted Frost Delay. But still had some birds while waiting. Once started, we walked route in reverse of usual order, sticking to the concrete paths. Grant Frost, Vicki Herren, Kirk Miller, Chuck Seniawski and Kurt Warmbier.

27 species

Canada Goose 280

Northern Shoveler 1

Gadwall 35

American Wigeon 46

Mallard 13

Green-winged Teal 2

Eurasian Collared-Dove 2

American Coot 1

Pied-billed Grebe 2

Great Blue Heron 1

Red-tailed Hawk 1 Seen as it was being chased into the tree by crows.

Downy Woodpecker 1

Northern Flicker 9

Black-billed Magpie 15

American Crow 7

Mountain Chickadee 5

White-breasted Nuthatch 2

Red-breasted Nuthatch 4

Brown Creeper 3 Seen simultaneously in same tree.

European Starling 12

Townsend's Solitaire 1

American Robin 28

House Finch 2

American Tree Sparrow 2

Dark-eyed Junco 12

Song Sparrow 1

Red-winged Blackbird 2 males



Great Blue Heron at the Country Club: Photo by Chuck Seniawski

View this checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S282233833>

New Important Bird Area signs attract attention at Lions Park

By Barb Gorges

Vicki Herren is a retired wildlife biologist and ardent birder who volunteered to be the Important Bird Area chair for the Cheyenne – High Plains Audubon Society. At the end of last year, while walking with a friend around one of Wyoming's IBAs, Lions Park, she mentioned that 220 bird species had been identified in the park so far—an eBird.org statistic Mark Gorges shared.

But then she thought: “How do we tell everyone else who walks the park that information? And the reason for the large number of species—the various habitats?” A sign, of course.

In January, Vicki brought it up to Mark Ellison, Cheyenne Urban Forestry manager, with whom she’d been discussing the value of the park’s dead trees for wildlife. That led to an introduction to Brandon Peterson, parks manager, and Jason Sanchez, Community Events and Recreation Department head.

Beyond the Audubon board members, Vicki reached out to Kim Parfitt, past chapter education chair. Kim is a retired Cheyenne high school biology teacher who has been writing school curriculum for her favorite subject: nature.

For technical expertise on bird photos, Vicki turned to board member Kirk Miller, an avid wildlife photographer.

Finally, I introduced Vicki to local graphic designer and birder Chris Hoffmeister, who designs my bird and gardening books.

This habitat sign project became three signs funded by chapter members and installed last month along the path around Sloans Lake.

All three signs start off with this sidebar:

“Why is our park so special?

“More than 220 species of birds find what they need right here! Food, water, and shelter make for a home sweet home year round for some birds or a seasonal stop for others.

“As areas around Cheyenne change and grow, Lions Park continues to be an important oasis for birds and people.”

The water sign is located at the south end of the beach: “DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE ... AND SO MUCH MORE!

“Sloan’s Lake is an irresistible glimmer for migrating birds as they fly over our short grass prairie. Birds depend on open water with sheltered shorelines so they can feed and rest. Snails, crayfish, insects, and fish feed a variety of waterfowl, herons, gulls, and osprey. Songbirds also can be found eating insects in the trees and shrubs along the shore.

(Callout bubble) “You can help by keeping tangled fishing line and trash out of the lake and off the shoreline. Don’t feed the ducks or geese, even if they beg.

(Lower panel) “DABBING OR DIVING? GRABBING OR NABBING?”

“Dabblers swish, swirl, and strain snacks near the surface.

“Divers go deep for tasty morsels

“Raptors use their sharp talons to grab a meal

“Herons wade and wait for whatever they can nab!”



New eye-catching signs at Lions Park describe what's going on in the trees, on the water and in the meadow: Photo by Barb Gorges

Pollinator information is on the sign overlooking the meadow between the path and pickleball courts: (Upper panel) "A PLACE FOR POLLINATORS"

"It's all about the nutritious nectar! This sweet liquid is made by plants to recruit insects for an important job...transporting pollen to other flowers. Once on a flower, an insect gets a treat while being dusted with pollen. Flitting off to find more food, the insect delivers the pollen to the next flower. Pollinated plants produce berries and seeds.

"All sorts of insects use plants to lay their eggs. When the eggs become caterpillars and larvae, they nibble leaves and stems. And then, it's all about the nutritious bird food!

(Callout bubble) "In the world of your backyard, you have the power to grow food and flowers PLUS be a hero for the smallest and most magnificent creatures.

(Lower panel) "WHEN CAN MESSY BE MIGHTY?"

"Spring flowers offer nectar to butterflies and bees

"Summer plants are leafy food for munching larvae, shelter for creatures who live there, and nesting areas for birds.

"Fall leaves and stems provide spaces for bugs to overwinter until spring

"Winter seeds feed our feathered friends."

The snag habitat sign is at the other end of the lake, near the back of the stage:

(Upper panel) "THE TREES THAT KEEP ON GIVING"

"Snags are dead trees that are full of life! Insects that are feeding in the decaying wood are hidden treats for woodpeckers, wrens and warblers. All sizes of holes can lead into hollowed out trunks holding nests or nurseries. These cavities can also be storage for food for later.

"Bare branches are perfect perches for raptors. Groups of vultures, crows, or cormorants roost here, too. Along the shoreline, snags can fall into the lake, adding woody debris and a sunning spot for turtles.

(Callout bubble) "In the world of your backyard, take a peek at the trees and their branches to see all the amazing life they support. It's thriving!

(Lower panel) "NO LEAVES, NO PROBLEM!"

"Over time, a tree ages and changes into new habitat and even food for many creatures.

"Bugs bite, then build paths weakening the wood, and fungi help.

"Woodpeckers drill and drum to reach the bugs.

"Cavities create safe places for growing families.

"Decay delivers nutrients to the soil and life starts again."

Barb Gorges is the author of books "Cheyenne Birds by the Month" and "The Best of Cheyenne Bird Banter," www.YuccaRoadPress.com. Her previous columns are at <http://cheyennebirdbanter.wordpress.com>. Contact her at bgorges4@msn.com.

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